

# MEETING DOCUMENT

## Wadden Sea Board (WSB 32)

4 March 2021  
Online Meeting



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<b>Agenda Item:</b>	<b>9 Wadden Sea Board Advisors; Wadden Sea Forum</b>
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Information about WSF activities</b>
<b>Document No.:</b>	WSB 32/9/1
<b>Date:</b>	11 February 2021
<b>Submitted by:</b>	<b>WSF</b>

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Attached is the document of the Wadden Sea Forum containing information on their activities and on the Round Table "Shipping".

**Proposal:** The meeting is invited to note the document and discuss and decide on the programme of the Round Table Shipping





# Trilateral Forum for the Wadden Sea Region

## Information about WSF activities WSB-32 meeting

### Content

1. WSF Activities
2. Information Round Table "Shipping"

## WSF Activities

### WSF internal

Manfred Vollmer, the long-time managing director of the WSF, retired in July 2020. His successor, Dr Frank Ahlhorn, started his work as new managing director of the WSF e.V. in August 2020.

### Green Coastal Deal

End of last year, the WSF discussed and decided to work on the realisation of a [“Green Coastal Deal” for the Wadden Sea Region](#). The main part of this approach is to establish Regional Round Tables in each region of the trilateral WSR. Therefore, the WSF secretariat approaches different existing institutions and organisations, e.g. Omgevingsberaad (The Netherlands), National Park Advisory Boards in Schleswig-Holstein and Advisory Board in Denmark. In Lower Saxony we are in close contact with the ARL (Agency for Federal State Development, Amt für regionale Landesentwicklung). The Regional Round Table should function as exchange and discussion platform in the respective regions in order to be able to touch upon regional challenges and topics, which will be conveyed to the trilateral level by the WSF plenary meetings. For example, in March the originally planned plenary meeting will be split into two half-day sessions dealing with “Green Coastal Deal” and “Energy Transition in the WSR”.

All topics mentioned in the following paragraphs are contributing to the “Green Coastal Deal” of the trilateral Forum for the Wadden Sea Region.

### Indicator tool

The WSF is continuously working on the indicators. Collecting and compiling of the years 2018 and 2019 is in progress. For the CVI workshop, which was held at Mid-February 2021, the WSF provided information for the agricultural sector on a trilateral level as far as the data was available. Results will be presented in one of the coming WSF plenary meetings. The WSF aims at applying and testing the applicability in different projects, which will be developed in the future.

### Dark Sky initiative

The [Dark Sky initiative](#) was started in 2019 by the WSF together with the PRW and a few interested people as trilateral kick-off. At present, the initiative is constantly growing. More than 20 people are active for Dark Sky in the trilateral Wadden Sea Region. It ranges from authorities, volunteering astronomers to EU project representatives. At the last Dark Sky meeting, January 2021, the initiative decided to become a Dark Sky Working Group under the WSF. The decision has been taken because it was agreed that a single contact point for Dark Sky issues is needed. The aim of the Dark Sky WG is twofold: i) Raise the awareness for darkness in the entire trilateral WSR (striving for project proposal) and ii) strong linkage of darkness to the OUV and the World Heritage site Wadden Sea (e.g. integration in the TMAP process).

For 23 April 2021, the Dark Sky Group is organising a webinar in order to convince and attract more people to the Dark Sky topic within the trilateral WSR.

## Agriculture

The WSF organised a Goose Management meeting in autumn last year. Different representatives were attending this meeting, which took place in Rendsburg at the Bauernverband Schleswig-Holstein. Main point at the meeting was to (re-)start the dialogue and exchange knowledge about approaches on how to assess damages and the measures taken. The attendees agreed that regular meetings will not be held, but on specific topics such as presenting and discussing results of current research project related to Goose Management, the group will meet again.

## Cooperation Wadden Sea municipalities

As follow-up of the "WatNu?" project conducted in the community of Wangerland (County of Friesland), a new project proposal has been developed and send to national funding programme. The project called "*Resilient Wadden Sea Communities*" was rejected, but the WSF is in close discussion and cooperation with researchers from Dutch and Lower Saxon universities in order revise and re-apply this proposal. Main items will be demographic change and services for the public.

According to this topic a student from the University of Applied Science van Hal Larenstein (Leeuwarden) is preparing a bachelor thesis on how *small Wadden Sea harbours* could increase their attractiveness in becoming more sustainable and resilient.

Especially, in the current situation facing a pandemic *crisis management* is crucial. The WSF invented together with two communities, Butjadingen (county Wesermarsch, Lower Saxony) and Amt Büsum-Wesselburen (county Dithmarschen, Schleswig-Holstein), a project proposal on management and education of volunteers in crisis management. The project proposal submitted to the Lower Saxon Minister of Research and Culture.

## Energy Transition in the WSR

The WSF is actively participating in the topic of "Energy Transition" in the Wadden Sea Region. Based on its members, New Energy Coalition (NL), Ørsted and Wintershall/DEA, the WSF is involved in different strands:

- Participating in the development of hydrogen strategies for parts of the WSR
- Developing and organizing a half-day session on "Energy Transition in the WSR" in March 2021, replacing the WSF plenary
- Supporting its members in exchanging knowledge and expertise in changing from fossil to cleaner and renewable fuels
- Supporting students in preparing theses such as
  - o Energy transition on Wadden Sea islands (University Wageningen)
  - o Wadden Sea harbours and Energy transition (University Groningen)

## Project proposals

### “MediaWatt”

The project proposal has been sent to the Wattenmeer Stiftung (Lower Saxony). Three public access channels (Bürgersender) are partners: Oldenburg Eins, Radio Jade and radio.weser.TV. Many institutions working in different fields around the Wadden Sea will delegate their volunteers, e.g. World Heritage Visitor Centre, National Park Information Centre Dangast, Lower Saxon National Park Wadden Sea Authority, Mellumrat e.V. and Naturschutzstiftung FWW. Two editorial offices will be established one for Tv and one for radio. The volunteers should be educated in producing features and reports for TV and radio, especially focusing on social media platforms. Finally, the results will serve as a fundament for a movie, which is planned to be shown at the TGC in 2022.

### “Arts and Sustainability”

First ideas and project structures have been invented by the curator company ARTPORT\_making waves and the WSF. ARTPORT\_making waves organizes artists events for the “United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030)”. It is planned to run several events in all regions of the trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation. The final event should take place in Wilhelmshaven at the next TGC in 2022.

### TEMPESTATES

A Horizon2020 project proposal submitted in January 2021. This project will deal with generating climate resilient coastal cities across Europe. More than 20 partners are involved in this research project and the WSF will serve as multi-stakeholder discussion platform for the services invented within the project.

### Shipping and Ports in the Wadden Sea Region

The WSF prepared a report on “[Round Table Shipping Safety – Trilateral Stakeholder Analysis](#)” under the auspice of the Lower Saxon National Park Wadden Sea Authority. Within this report a broad overview on stakeholders related to the topic shipping and ports has been compiled. Furthermore, conducting a cursory survey it was revealed that (re-)starting a dialogue on this topic is very much appreciated by the responders. All of them indicated that they are willing to participate in a constructive dialogue and are keen to collaborate in a multi-stakeholder environment.

The WSF is currently working together the WST on a proposal for starting a trustful and reliable dialogue in the shipping and ports sector. A project proposal is drafted including representatives from the shipping and harbour sector. The WSF and the WST is approaching external funding sources for this project proposal.

## Trilateral Partnership Hub

The WSF is participating at the OPTeamPH meetings. Furthermore, the WSF is responsible for some projects, which are conducted under the umbrella of the Partnership Hub, i.e. Dark Sky Initiative and Round Table "Shipping". It is envisaged to convey parts of the Dark Sky items into the extension of the EU Interreg VB PROWADLink project, e.g. feasibility study.

## PR and Media work

WSF website: The [WSF website](#) has been refreshed and updated.

Social media: The WSF secretariat is actively using social media platforms such as Instagram, Facebook and LinkedIn to spread relevant information on the work of the WSF.

## WSF membership

In 2020, the WSF welcomed three new members, which are also financially contributing:

- Region South Denmark
- County of Friesland (Lower Saxony)
- Oldenburgisch-Ostfriesischer Wasserverband (OOWV, Lower Saxony): A regional drinking water supplier.

## Information on Round Table “Shipping”

### General

What?	Detail/Item	Who?
<b>Process, Structure and Content</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Organisation &amp; Communication</li> <li>➤ Stakeholder analysis</li> <li>➤ Structure and Content of RT</li> <li>➤ Invitation</li> </ul>	WSF (supported by TG-M & CWSS)

### Schedule

Item	What?	Who?	Estimated completion
<b>Identification of potential attendees</b>	Identification of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ German participants               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ In consultation with                   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Thomas Borchers and Gregor Scheiffarth</li> <li>▪ WST</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ Dutch participants               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ In consultation with                   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Floris van Bentum</li> <li>▪ Karst Jaarsma</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ Danish participants               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ In consultation with Henrik Pind Jørgensen</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	WSF	Done
<b>Communication</b>	Calling selected participants and conducting a survey asking for <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Stake, motivation and aims</li> <li>○ Further stakeholders</li> </ul>	WSF	Done
<b>In-depth interviews</b>	Potential participants at the first Round Table “Shipping”	WSF	In progress
<b>Meeting date (online)</b>	Spring 2021 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ April – week 16: 19. – 23.4.</li> <li>➤ April – week 17: 26. – 30.4.</li> </ul>	All	After finishing of interviews
<b>Official Invitation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ First draft</li> <li>➤ Review</li> <li>➤ Final draft and sending</li> </ul>	WSF, CWSS, TG-M	After finishing of interviews

## Round Table "Shipping"

It would be important to involve a broad spectrum of stakeholders in this dialogue with the aim to improve topics around "shipping" in the southern North Sea. Therefore, it is proposed to establish a Round Table "Shipping" with representatives of shipping authorities, ports, green NGOs and representatives of the society (municipalities, counties, provinces) to advise the Wadden Sea Board. This group should be independent and without formal/hierarchical regulations – the function is more on an advisory level, which may enable a better collaboration among authorities and a variety of stakeholders. This group will be facilitated by the WSF secretariat with the support of the CWSS/TG-M.

### Tasks

The overall task of the Round Table "Shipping" is to exchange information and experiences about, e.g. the safety practices and to elaborate on future procedures on how to deal with shipping safety and related topics in the southern North Sea, considering the vulnerability of the World Heritage Site Wadden Sea. Second, to (re-)start a dialogue on this relevant topic in the TWSC. The evaluation of 2017 on the operational plans as part of the Tønder Declaration, the outcomes of the report on "Shipping and ports in the Wadden Sea World Heritage" and the report on "Trilateral Stakeholder Analysis – Round Table Shipping Safety" could be used as a starting points. Underlying ideas for the content of the first Round Table meeting might be:

- Get acquainted to each other
- Get updated
  - on the recent and future developments in the participating states concerning shipping
  - on the status of the World Heritage Site Wadden Sea (i.e. SIMP)
  - on the recent developments in the Wadden Sea society (i.e. informing about the statements of the National Park Advisory Boards, interests and demands of the NGO's, ...)
- Setting the scene on relationship between Shipping and World Heritage
  - Identifying threats, problems and challenges
  - Prioritise identified topics
- Discussion and striving for consensus on further processes and procedures. Further elaboration of specific tasks could be done in separate working groups.

### Reporting

The Round Table "Shipping" will report regularly about developments and progress to the TG-M and WSB.

## Round Table "Shipping" - Spring 2021(online)

### Proposed Draft Agenda<sup>1</sup>

#### **1. Opening**

The chair, Ms. Janne Liburd, will open the Round Table "Shipping" at 10:00 hours.

An introduction about the background and the aim of the meeting will be given. Participants are *invited* to adopt the draft agenda.

#### **2. Round of introduction**

A round of introduction will take place to get acquainted with each other.

#### **3. Introductory presentations**

In the first part of the Round Table meeting some presentations will be given to provide information, valuable for the objectives of the Round Table and to be taken into account.

1. The Wadden Sea World Heritage Site and resulting responsibilities of the society, CWSS
2. Key messages based on the report "Shipping and ports in the Wadden Sea World Heritage", tbd
3. Overview about how shipping businesses and issues are organized in the three Wadden Sea countries:
  - a. Organisation of shipping issues in the Netherlands, tbd, Ministry of Transport and Environment
  - b. Organisation of shipping issues in Denmark, tbd, Danish Maritime Authority
  - c. Organisation of shipping issues in Germany, tbd, Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure
4. Update of the MS Zoe accident and lessons learnt  
NL inspection council, Onderzoeksraad voor Veiligheid

#### **4. Exchange of views**

The participants are invited to contribute to an exchange of perceptions how to meet the concerns of the society along the coast as well as viewpoints on possible approaches dealing with the variety of topics concerning shipping and harbours.

#### **5. Future steps**

The meeting is invited to agree on further steps and actions to reach common sense about further cooperation for safe and sustainable shipping businesses in the southern North Sea.

#### **6. Closure**

The round table will be closed around 14:00 at the latest.

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<sup>1</sup> The agenda may change due to the results and new insights gained by the bilateral in-depth interviews with all potential participants.

## Potential Participants<sup>2</sup>

No.	Status	Institution	Country
1	Government	Danish Naval Command	DK
2	Government	Ministry of Environment and Food of Denmark	DK
3	Government	Danish Maritime Authority	DK
4	Government	DanPilots	DK
5	Government	Dutch Coast Guard	NL
6	Government	Ministry for Infrastructure and Water Management	NL
7	Government	Rijkswaterstaat Noord-Nederland	NL
8	Government	Havariekommando	D
9	Government	Bundesministerium für Verkehr und Digitale Infrastruktur (BMVI)	D
10	Government	Bundesministerium für Umwelt, Naturschutz und nukleare Sicherheit (BMU)	D
11	Government	Niedersächsisches Ministerium für Umwelt, Energie, Bauen und Klimaschutz (MU)	D
12	Government	Ministerium für Energiewende, Landwirtschaft, Umwelt, Natur und Digitalisierung (MELUND)	D
13	Government	Wasserstraßen- und Schifffahrtsverwaltung (WSV)	D
14	Association	Bundesverband der See- und Hafenslotsen (German Pilots)	D
15	Municipalities/NP	Omgevingsberaad Waddengebied	NL
16	Municipalities/NP	Nationalpark Beirat Niedersachsen	D
17	Municipalities/NP	Nationalpark Kuratorium Schleswig-Holstein	D
18	Advisory	Danish Wadden Sea Advisory Board	DK
19	Shipowner	KVNR – Dutch Shipowners	NL
20	Shipowner	VDR – German Shipowners	D
21	Shipowner	Danish Shipping	DK
22	NGO's	Wadden Sea Team	Trilateral
23	Ports	Cooperation of Wadden Sea Harbours	Trilateral
24		Janne Liburd (chair)	Trilateral
25		Frank Ahlhorn (secretary)	Trilateral

<sup>2</sup> Might be extended due to the results and new insights by the bilateral in-depth interviews with all potential participants.